

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of enabling access to electronic media, the method comprising:  
accessing a first track of electronic media;  
accessing a rule set, the rule set including:  
an event definition describing an event condition to be monitored/detected  
5 during a current media state;  
an event transition that relates the event definition to a new media state;  
detecting that the event in the rule set has occurred; and  
performing the event transition in response detecting to the event.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 wherein accessing the rule set includes downloading a rule set from a host.
3. The method of claim 2 further comprising invoking a media player before  
downloading the rule set.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein accessing the first track requires accessing the rule set before the content is rendered.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein performing the event transition includes accessing  
20 a second track, the second track relating to the new media state described in the event transition.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein accessing the second track includes accessing an  
instantiation of the first track encoded at a different bit rate.
- 25 7. The method of claim 1 wherein accessing the first track includes referencing a location for the electronic media.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein accessing the rule set with the event definition  
30 includes accessing a code segment describing a media player event for a media player

accessing the electronic media that was not configured to process prior to accessing the rule set.

5 9. The method of claim 8 wherein accessing the rule set with the event definition and performing the event transition include accessing the event definition that relates to an interruption in a network service while accessing the first track, and responding to the network interruption in response.

10 10. The method of claim 8 wherein accessing the rule set with the event definition and performing the event transition include accessing the event definition that relates to an availability of a prioritized media selection that is now available and notifying the user as to the availability of the prioritized media selection.

15 11. The method of claim 8 wherein accessing the rule set with the event definition and performing the event transition include accessing an event condition within the event definition that describes a playlist that is used to select content, and using the playlist to select content.

20 12. The method of claim 8 wherein accessing the rule set with the event definition and performing the event transition include accessing an event condition within the event definition that describes a licensing restriction and selecting content that complies with the licensing restriction.

25 13. The method of claim 8 wherein accessing the rule set with the event definition and performing the event transition include accessing an event condition within the event definition that enables an emergency broadcast system to interrupt the first track, and switching to a transmission of the emergency broadcast system.

30 14. The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing an event condition within the rule set that relates to a commonly used across a type of media, using the event definition

when the type of media is being used, and performing the event transition when the event associated with the type of media occurs.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein accessing an event condition related to the type  
5 of media, using the event definition, and performing the event transition include using a rule set that relates to video, audio, or data visualization.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing an event condition that is  
commonly used across a particular class of content or a theme, using the event definition  
10 when the particular class of content or the theme is being used, and performing the event transition when the event associated with the type of particular class of content or the theme occurs.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein detecting that the event in the rule set has  
15 occurred includes determining that access to the first track has been interrupted.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein detecting that the event in the rule set has  
occurred includes receiving state information from a communications interface.

20 19. A system enabling access to electronic media, the system comprising:  
an access code segment structured and arranged to access a first track of electronic  
media;

a rule set code segment structured and arranged to access a rule set, the rule set  
including:

25 an event definition describing an event condition to be monitored/detected  
during a current media state;

an event transition that relates the event definition to a new media state;

a detecting code segment structured and arranged to detect that the event in the rule  
set has occurred; and

30 an event transition code segment structured and arranged to perform the event  
transition in response detecting to the event.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the access code segment is structured and arranged to access a code segment describing a media player event for a media player  
5 accessing the electronic media that was not configured to process prior to accessing the rule set.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the access code segment and the event transition code segment are structured and arranged to access the event definition that relates to an  
10 interruption in a network service while accessing the first track, and respond to the network interruption in response.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein the access code segment and the event transition code segment are structured and arranged to access the event definition that relates to an  
15 availability of a prioritized media selection that is now available and notify the user as to the availability of the prioritized media selection.

23. The system of claim 20 wherein the access code segment and the event transition code segment are structured and arranged to access an event condition within the event  
20 definition that describes a playlist that is used to select content, and use the playlist to select content.

24. The system of claim 20 wherein the access code segment and the event transition code segment are structured and arranged to access an event condition within the event  
25 definition that describes a licensing restriction and select content that complies with the licensing restriction.

25. The system of claim 20 wherein the access code segment and the event transition code segment are structured and arranged to access an event condition within the event  
30 definition that enables an emergency broadcast system to interrupt the first track, and switch to a transmission of the emergency broadcast system.

26. The system of claim 19 further comprising a media code segment structured and arranged to access an event condition within the rule set that relates to a commonly used across a type of media, use the event definition when the type of media is being used, and perform the event transition when the event associated with the type of media occurs for the media being used.

27. The system of claim 26 wherein the media code segment is structured and arranged to use a rule set that relates to video, audio, or data visualization.

28. The system of claim 19 further comprising a theme code segment structured and arranged to access an event condition that is commonly used across a particular class of content or a theme, use the event definition when the particular class of content or the theme is being used, and perform the event transition when the event associated with the type of particular class of content or the theme occurs.

29. The system of claim 19 wherein the detecting code segment is structured and arranged to determine that access to the first track has been interrupted.

30. The system of claim 19 wherein the detecting code segment is structured and arranged to receive state information from a communications interface.

31. A system enabling access to electronic media, the system comprising:  
means for accessing a first track of electronic media;  
means for accessing a rule set, the rule set including:  
an event definition describing an event condition to be monitored/detected during a current media state;  
an event transition that relates the event definition to a new media state;  
means for detecting that the event in the rule set has occurred; and  
means for performing the event transition in response detecting to the event.